(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether Government have also approved any proposal for providing more gas to Maharashtra and for setting up of second gas terminal at Usar; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the proposals and on which date Government's decision was taken and conveyed to the Government of Maharashtra in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The concept of laying a gas pipeline from the Western offshore to the Southern region has been approved in principle. The proposal envisages the use of surplus gas from the Western offshore. This is also proposed to be supplemented by import of natural gas from the Middle East subject to its techno-economic feasibility.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Cooking Gas to Rural Areas

2917. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural population has been denied its right to use cooking gas on flimsy technical reasons; and

(b) whether Government propose to stop this discrimination against them and make necessary arrangements to enable them to avail their right as a citizen of this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) New LPG distributerships are opened by Public Sector LPG Marketing Companies, subject to viability, in a phased manner at places with a population of 20,000 and above and not on rural/urban basis. However, the Government have allowed parallel marketing and sale of LPG by private agencies at market determined prices in any market of their choice, including rural areas.

Exodus of specialized staff of oil companies from public sector to private sector

2918. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector oil companies have been facing large scale exodus of specialised staff to private refineries;

(b) if so, what is the number of the specialised staff which have left the public sector oil companies (with name) during 1992 and since the beginning of 1993 (till-date);

(c) what are the major causes identified for the exodus of the specialised staff from the oil companies; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such exodus.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Plans of Gail for setting up LPG plants

2919. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has chalked out an ambitious plan to set up LPG plants at several places in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the LPG plants likely to be set up in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) what are the allocations made for the purpose and the total capacity of the plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Two new LPG plants are proposed to be set up during the VIII Plan period. The details are as below:

Plant location	Capacity (MTPA)	Proposed outlay during VIII plan (Rs./crores)
1. Lakwa	85,000	231.5
2. Uaar	139,000	280.1

ONGC's strike threat

2920. SHRI SURESH KALAMADI:
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the observer of 10th December, 1993 under the caption "ONGC strike threat over opening up of oil fields"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Unions of ONGC handed over notices on direct action which included a demand objecting to the "handing over proven oil fields to third parties". A series of meetings had taken place between representatives of ONGC Management and ASTO as well as Unions. This had led to mutual appreciation of each other's point of view and the Management's and Government's stand in the matter. The Management and the Unions have since concluded a memorandum of Understanding.

Complaint against Gas Agency of Rohini

2921. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of LPG cylinders supplied to M/s. Puneet Gas Services, Rohini, Sector-6, Delhi during the last one month;

(b) what is the number of cylinders supplied by the above Company to its consumers registered with it during the above period;

(c) whether any discrepancy has been detected in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaints have been received against the said company for not supplying the gas cylinders in time to the consumers registered with it during the last three months; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken against the said company to save the consumers from harassment and inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) During the month of November, 1993, M/s. Puneet Gas Service were supplied 9537 refills cylinders and the distributor has supplied 9486 cylinders to its registered customers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

विशेष परिस्थितियों के अंतर्गत गैस एजेंसियों का आवंटन

2922. श्री रामदेव भंडारी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गैस वितरण एजेंसी के आवंटन में सामान्य प्रक्रिया के अतिरिक्त वे विशेष परिस्थितियां क्या हैं जिनके अंतर्गत एजेंसी आवंटित की जाती है;

(ख) क्या वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान पूरे देश का में